

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Urban's evident unwillingness to proceed against Pedro de Luna is noticeable, as also the fact that the bull still speaks of the three Italian cardinals, Corsini, Brossano, and Jacopo Orsini, who had retired to Tagliacozzo after the election of Clement, as "our venerable brother and our beloved sons." It is clear that he did not yet regard them as his enemies.

There is something heroic (tragically pathetic, even, in the light of his subsequent fall) in the figure of this coarsegrained, violent, and implacable man, firmly believing in the justice of his own claims to be the vicar of the Prince of Peace, surrounded by men who were prepared to turn against him when it should serve their purposes, thus setting out to battle against the world in what he deemed the cause of righteousness, with the pale, ecstatic figure of the stigmatized Bride of Christ by his side. His first impulse was to employ her for the conversion of the Queen of Naples, sending her and Catherine of Sweden together as his ambassadors to win her over to his side. Catherine of Siena accepted the mission with alacrity and enthusiasm; but Catherine of Sweden, who remembered with lively horror what she had seen of the court of Naples at the time of her brother's death, absolutely refused to go. Fra Raimondo, who also knew more of his sovereign and her ways than did his spiritual mistress, was so much impressed by the Swedish maiden's fears that he frankly opened his mind to Urban on the subject; and the latter, after some thought, decided that it was better that they should not go. Catherine, yearning like a mother over the Queen's soul, and longing herself for martyrdom, was bitterly disappointed. "If Agnes and Margaret had thought upon these things," she said, "they would never have won the crown of martyrdom. Is not our Bridegroom able to protect us? These are vain considerations, which proceed from lack of faith rather than from true prudence." She had, for

¹ *Legenda*, III. i. 5 (§ 335). Cf. Comtesse de Flavigny, *Saintte JBrigitte de Suit* pp. 532-537» but I can find no evidence of any direct intercourse between the two Catherines.